



# Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

Book 2: 4500

4/2/20

## DECREE

One of the most critical resources of the Diocese of Cheyenne is her clergy. Assessing the pastoral needs of each parish, and of the entire Diocese, while keeping in mind the talents, abilities, and personalities of each priest and deacon, is an important endeavor. Determining how best to assign them is an essential aspect of the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel and seek the salvation of souls.

Having a Clergy Assignment Council would assist me as the Bishop of Cheyenne to best determine how to assign our priests and deacons. Up until now, the Deans (Vicars Foranes) of the five deaneries and the Vicar General have served as the *de facto* Clergy Assignment Council. Establishing a formal Clergy Assignment Council would be beneficial, and expanding the Council to include laity, preferably women, would add a positive contribution and perspective to the process of discerning assignments. Having two laypersons who have a broad knowledge of the Diocese of Cheyenne, the priests, the deacons, and the various parishes would provide additional insight on how best to utilize our clergy. The positions of the Director of Parish Services, and the Chancellor are two positions which would best provide this insight. If not held by laity, then two other laypersons, preferably women, could be chosen.

I, therefore, direct the amendment of the *Directory Concerning Personnel Issues of Presbyters*, IV. ASSIGNMENTS: A. Consultation: 1. Deans (Vicars Forane): so that it reads as follows:

1. Clergy Assignment Council:

a. Membership:

The Clergy Assignment Council will consist of the Deans (Vicars Forane), the Vicar General, and two (2) laypersons, who normally will be the Director of Parish Services and the Chancellor. If either one or both of the positions of the Director of Parish Services and the Chancellor are not held by laypersons, the Bishop of Cheyenne will appoint for a three (3) year term laypersons, preferably women, with a general knowledge of the Diocese of Cheyenne, her clergy, and her parishes to serve on the Council. These terms are renewable.

b. Purpose:

The Clergy Assignment Council will serve as the principal advisors to the Bishop of Cheyenne concerning the assignment of Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Parochial Vicars (Associate Pastors), Deacons, the assignment of other offices within the Diocese of Cheyenne, and for incardination into and excardination from the Diocese of Cheyenne. This includes the recruitment and assignment of priests and deacons not incardinated in the Diocese of Cheyenne to serve within the Diocese. The Clergy Assignment Council, however, is merely advisory in these personnel matters. The Bishop may, at any time, make appointments,

transfers, incardinations, and excardinations without consulting the Council, provided he has followed the norms of canon law. The Bishop may also consult with other clergy and laity when making assignments.

c. Meetings:

In general, the Clergy Assignment Council will meet as a group in person in order to provide advice to the Diocesan Bishop, but if needed, members may attend by electronic means. When necessary or advantageous, he may consult them individually or through electronic means.

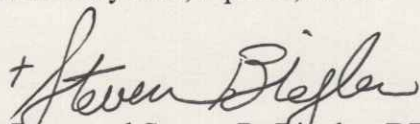
d. Confidentiality:

Members of the Clergy Assignment Council are bound by strict confidentiality concerning their discussions with the Bishop about assignments and other personnel matters.

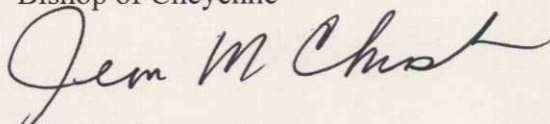
In addition, in IV. ASSIGNMENTS: B. Assignments Themselves: 1. General Provisions: "one (1) of the Deans (Vicars Forane)" will be changed to "one (1) of the members of the Clergy Assignment Council."

This revision will be effective on April 2, 2020.

Given in Cheyenne, April 2, 2020.



Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler, DD, STL  
Bishop of Cheyenne



Jean M. Chrostoski  
Chancellor

